# THE OBSERVER.

THE FRIEND OF SOCRATES, THE FRIEND OF PLATO,
BUT ABOVE ALL, THE FRIEND OF TRUTH.

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*For the Observer.*

## THE LUCUBRATIONS OF
## *BENJAMIN BICKERSTAFF, ESQUIRE.*

TO BENJAMIN BICKERSTAFF, ESQ.

I cannot tell you how much I am delighted, dear Mr. Bickerstaff, with the appearance of one of your name again in print... Of a family whose renown is already too universally acknowledged to receive any addition from my feeble approval, I welcome in you one in whom the wit of your forefathers does not appear to have degenerated...And I am moreover still further charmed, with your lucubrations; because, instead of darting the weapons of your imagination against the sex whom you assert "man was born to please." you appear to stand forth disposed to be the champion and advocate of the fair. Nevertheless, I would not have you too indulgent to their vanities and their errors ; for it is just such a pen as yours, which has at its command the sportive powers of fancy, and the vivacious strokes of playful wit, that is best calculated to laugh them out of their follies, and while you amuse, improve them.

Amongst those trivial errors, to which the force of your raillery might be most usefully directed, there is not one of the whole catalogue of follies attributed to women, which is more justly deserved, than that of affectation....Indeed Mr. Bickerstaff, you could not render them a greater service, than to attack this ridiculous rage, for improving their natural graces by the assistance of art, with all the force of satire. It is impossible for a girl to know she is pretty, without her being immediately seized with this mania...I saw a lovely creature the other evening at the assembly, whom, if contented with what nature had done for her, would have been grace and captivation personified... But no ; she was resolved to owe the number of her conquests to the ingenuity of her machinations, and every word and every look, was marshalled to execute. She turned and twisted her head like a Chinese Mandarine, by way of not suffering a blue vein or a contour to escape her victims, and for the purpose of displaying the perfect symmetry of her form, she writhed her person about like an eel in the ruthless gripe of a cook... Of all ages and all conditions, this seems to be the "sin that most easily besets them." Some put one to death with sentiment, & can-

not open their mouths but in iambics. Constantia, whom nature intended for a grave and dignified woman, affects sprightliness and airy grace, while her studied levity is just about as enchanting as when a solemn broadbacked Dutchman plays off the *singeries* of a French petit maitre. The plump cheeks, laughing eyes, and dimpled mouth of Lucetta, were formed for smiles and merriment. But Lucetta has taken into her head that an air of importance and gravity are most becoming, and therefore, whenever she speaks, she looks like Hebe about to solve one of Euclids problems. Now, Mr. Bickerstaff, if you will only prevail on these ladies to reassume their natural characters, you will essentially serve the cause of grace and beauty...but if you find the sex incorrigible, I do entreat you will use your influence to have a teacher of affectation added to every female academy, that if this qualification is indispensible to ladies, they may at least attain it in such a degree of perfection as to know how to conceal *art* under the *appearance* of nature. You must not suppose that I think your sex entirely free from this imputation...But I am most interested in the honor of my own, and therefore more anxious for their improvement.

I shall impatiently wait to see some of the artillery of your wit directed this way, and in the mean time, have the honor to assure you with how much respect

I am yours,

TABITHA SIMPLE.

*For the Observer.*

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*Lectorem delectando, pariterque monendo.*

HOR. ARS. POET.

Mixing together profit and delight.

*(Continued from p. 38.)*

Another advantage obtained by those who study history, with a philosophical disposition, is that they so digest facts and examine the relations of things to each other, and receive so many lessons in the most interesting of all sciences, the philosophy of human nature, that with their stock of anticipated knowledge they enter into the affairs of life with greater advantage, more prepared to interest and prepossess others...also to guard against the innumerable dangers to which a novice in the world is exposed, and for the knowledge how to avoid them, which he acquires by experience he pays very dearly.

The principles which the student of history acquires by reading, are formed from views of subjects and their relations so extensive as to secure him from the errors which are generally mixed with opinions made up on individual observation. Many actions which from their apparent tendency are deemed most commendable and noble, would be decided to be of a very differ

ent nature, if the motives in which they originated could be exhibited, and all the under-plots developed : but this is generally impracticable at the time of their execution, & therefore in most matters of importance will only ultimately be discovered, after the whole series of transactions, of which they form but a part, is completed.

By history, alone, are we enabled to gratify our laudable curiosity, to know what were the origins of different nations, or in what situations they were many centuries ago. By it only can we learn what were the steps by which nations have progressed from slender and feeble beginnings to a high degree of consequence ; and it furnishes the only means by which we can trace the decline of empires from the first errors and imprudencies of an apparently slight and inconsequential nature, but which have entrained unavoidably more flagrant abuses, until the whole fabrick, agitated and convulsed by repeated shocks, cannot be preserved by human power from total destruction. Believing as I do that the revolutions of empires constitute a part of the plan of the Almighty in his government of the world, I am confident that no knowledge, foresight or exertion can prevent them ; but on the contrary, I have as little doubt of the effect of wise measures in deferring the time of the overthrow of nations, as I have of the effect of prudence and care, deferring the time of the dissolution of individuals. We learn also from this source, what were the means by which nations have attained the high points of glory in which we admire them ; and we have in them examples which may be followed as far as is compatible with the difference of circumstances. The concurring testimony of all persons who have thought on the subject, impresses on us the beneficial effect of an acquaintance with the characters of great and good men, which not only gives us instruction, but also produces in all correct minds a strong desire to imitate and to emulate them. By history we are taught, the powerful influence of national manners, peculiar laws and customs, and to make an estimate of the intimate connection which exists between the conduct of one or a few individuals, and the fate of empires. Sometimes we observe the impetuous torrent of decadency to have been arrested by the virtues and abilities of one great man, and the gloom which was impending to have been so far dispersed as to flatter the nations in whom it took place, that they were returning to the bright and effulgent splendour of the meridian of their greatness ; they were, however, soon undeceived ; the solitary support and prop of their grandeur being removed, they again perceived themselves on the decline, and however reluctantly, they were compelled to submit to change, the inevitable lot of all sublunary things.

It must be admitted that the knowledge which we obtain from history, does not make precisely the same impressiou on our minds, as that which we gain by experience ; but it operates in the same way, in facilitating our passage through life, and in giv-

ing us correct ideas of men and things, as an intimate acquaintance with the geography of a country, aids us in travelling through it, and in familiarizing ourselves with its peculiarities, its curiosities, its diversions, productions, &c.

*(To be continued.)*

[Too long lulled into neglect by the false and dangerous persuasion of security with which our distance from Europe has inspired us, we have imagined that this distance alone would suffice to preserve us from the baneful influence of those commotions which have so long banished tranquility from the other hemisphere. But now that the eyes of the nation appear to be in some measure open to the fatal consequences which might attend our continuance in so great an error, we feel it our duty to seize with avidity every opportunity which may occur, of furnishing our readers with important information and authentic details, calculated to throw light upon those events which at present engage the attention of the whole universe, and which cannot henceforth remain indifferent to ourselves. Favored with judicious reflections on this subject, by some enlightened friends, who were occular witnesses of the various scenes of the revolution, and who appear to have been enabled to judge of it discriminately, and to the exclusion of all other avocations, to have followed it through its progressive and daily developements and diverse phases, we think it incumbent on us to present their views to such of our readers as may be animated witha spirit of patriotism, and who may profit by the example which the errors of other nations afford, to guard our own from similar misfortunes. At all events, the article on Prussia, as well as those which are a continuation of it, are undoubtedly calculated to excite both interest and curiosity, and certainly the style in which they are written, must render them acceptable to readers of taste.]

FOR THE OBSERVER.

## POLITICAL.

### CRIMINATION OF THE CONDUCT OF ALL THE POWERS OF EUROPE.

*Je suis juste et ne suis pas galant.* VOLTAIRE.

The observations published in the second number of the Observer, appear to require some continuation, in order to prove, that the accusation there preferred against Prussia, of having been the *Artizan of the Colossus which at present overwhelms her in her turn,* is equally applicable to allthe existing governments in Europe.

I begin with great Britain, whom it is true at present remains in the field, as the most intrepid and last defender of Europe; but the firm perseverance she at present displays *in the cause of her own preservation,* which depends on her firmness, can-

not induce us to forget that it was England who organized the *faction of Orleans* ; who created the CLUB OF BRETON in France, out of which arose the club of *jacobins*, that infernal crater which immediately ejected the devastating eruption of the pretended liberty of the press, and the universal propagation of the principles of insurrection, &c.

Was it not England, who suffered the coalition to take possesion in their own names of those places in the north of France, which had fallen into their power, instead of insisting on the acknowledgment of the legitimate authority of the Bourbons ?

After having been a silent spectator of this piece of injustice, so impolitic (because it necessarily tended to rally, and in effect did rally a vast number of French,) the Duke of York, guided by the views and private interest of the Cabinet of St. James's, whose sole object was to injure the French navy, abandoned the army of the allies to attack Dunkirk with 40,000 men, at the risk of enfeebling it by this deficit, to such a degree, as to retard its most essential operations and even hazard its safety. He was defeated, lost all his artillery, was the cause of the second and last invasion of the low countries, and the defeat of the Austrian armies.

Was it not England, who very soon dreading the energy, or rather the formidable spirit of phrenzy which the revolution diffused throughout France, that after encouraging the *Vendeans*, furnished them only insufficient resources, and detained the *French Princes* to prevent their presenting themselves to the insurgents, at a time when their presence might have decided the quarrel so efficaciously, and who did this with a view to disgrace them in the eyes of their people.

The respectable and unfortunate Count Louis de Frotté,* in a visit which he paid Mr. Pitt, before he returned to seek death in his native country, addressed the following words to the English minister, which merit being made public. " I confess that I go," said he, " as much guided by despair as by duty. But, sir, I feel it incumbent on me to be sincere with you, for doubtless we never shall meet again. A hundred times you have possessed the *power* without the *will* to reinstate the Bourbons ; henceforth every thing gives me reason to apprehend, you will have the *will* without the *power* to do them justice."

And this was because every power in Europe, beheld in the restoration of the Bourbons, the prosperity of France, and the re-establishment of a house they were delighted to see humbled ; while, struck as Racine has said,

> .....de cet esprit de vertige et d'erreur
> De la chute des Rois funeste avant coureur,†

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* Count Louis de Frotte, a General of the royalist party, whom Buonaparte shot in Normandy, notwithstanding his having a legal protection.

† Athalie.

They were blind to the dangers which might result to themselves from such an example, and such a commotion, and could not foresee that the fate of the Bourbons would very soon menace them in their turn.

It is in vain to alledge, in justification of England, the descent of Quiberon, where such a number of brave fellows so deplorably perished.

I certainly reject as a calumny the accusation which France made against Great Britain, relative to this melancholy catastrophe ; that is to say, that this expedition was designed for the purpose of destroying some thousand emigrants, and above all, to ruin the remains of the French navy...but I will affirm that had Great Britain really desired the speedy triumph of the Royalists in France, she would have left the Bourbons a carte-blanche on this occasion, instead of enchaining them by the ridiculous considerations, which it was pretended prevented them from acknowledging the French Princes, as long as they remained in England or on British vessels, through motives of respect to the people. I will add that from the example of the descent of the Helder in Holland, under General Abercomby, and that more recent in Calabria under General Stuart, it is demonstrated how easy it would have been for Great Britain to have invaded Brittany, and to have excited a general insurrection amongst the inhabitants of all the western departments of France, if at the head of 20 or 30,000 auxiliary troops, they had presented to the people the Bourbons, holding the olive branch in one hand, and the club in the other, to exterminate the monsters of the cave of Geryon, if they would not cease to devour the human race.

*It was in Carthage that it was necessary to attack Carthage*..... it was there, that they should have resolved to combat : they would not : the party of the princes is crushed : and England is now reduced to hope her preservation from the most capricious and faithless of elements.....or the uncertain fall of a man, who may yet be sustained for five, ten and even thirty years !!!

This is not all ; if the last coalition of Prussia was so slow in coming to a decision ; this will be explained when it is remembered, in what manner the corps of Russian troops, who disembarked at the *Helder* with the English army were treated. Let it be recollected that the Russians with their usual valour, had made an important opening into the midst of the French army, and that not being seconded by the English with the same intrepidity, this whole column was abandoned and made prisoners, and in the exchange which followed, England for a long time interested herself only in behalf of her own national prisoners, and bargained for and delayed that of her allies, in a manner which deeply incensed both the Russian prisoners of war, as well as their government, a circumstance from which Buonaparte did not fail to draw the greatest advantage, both during their stay in France, and after they were permited to return to their own cou-

try. And I will boldly affirm, that the last descent of the English in Calabria, will be a new source of calamity both to the people, and the coalition. Because, it was when Prince Charles, a year ago, sustained by himself the glory and the name of the German troops, against Massena, that this diversion should have been operated in the kingdom of Naples. At present, when Austria does not possess a single foot in Italy, it is *madness* to hope that fifteen or even twenty thousand English, can accomplish the expulsion of the French, when 100,000 warlike Austrians, commanded by one of the greatest warriors of the age, could not maintain possession of it.

The revolt of the Calabrians, then, will only serve to increase the number of victims; to sink the inhabitants into dejection, to destroy their chiefs, and in making known their resources, will the more certainly annihilate them. The English will then *reimbark*.....and the unfortunate Calabrians will be treated as were the Vendeans, the Swiss, and the Piedmontese insurgents, so much dreaded under the name of *Barbets*. The English prisoners will be exchanged.....and no cartel will take place in favour of the insurgents; and consequently, when a new coalition, requires their aid, either they will exist no longer, or they will not dare to make the smallest movement.

I am aware that the liberal conduct of Great Britain towards the emigrant Catholic clergy, will be here brought forward.

But it is not difficult to discover the state reasons which influenced the English government in this measure, when it is known that the most effectual means of setting France in tumult, was to kindle and foment religious wars, or at least religious commotions.

It would be easy to relate a thousand circumstances, which prove beyond a doubt, that the partisans of the Bourbons were never individually considered by the English, however honourable might have been their conduct, however great their dangers and their sacrifices, nor however painful might have been the situation, to which they were reduced, when she once ascertained that they could be no longer useful to her interests. These words are severe, it will be said; who can listen to them? who can listen to them? those who seek truth—those who desire to learn the history of the age, in which they live, those who are neither influenced by national or party prejudice, and with whom facts are every thing, or at least command some attention.* I pass over to Spain. M. A.

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* The frequent mention of *Royalists* and *Bourbons* may perhaps be objected to by some persons—But it must be recollected that the revolution of France, which is now the *revolution of Europe*, has been for eleven years a struggle betwixt democracy, royalty and aristocracy, that this quarrel is not yet extinguished in France, and that the convulsions which take place in France, are the cause which agitate the rest of the world. In short it is sufficiently evident, that if the royalist party had triumphed in France, all Italy, the low countries, the German empire, Switzerland and Holland

## BIOGRAPHY.

### THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
# *WILLIAM EARL MANSFIELD.*

Gath'ring his flowing robe, he seem'd to stand,
In act to speak, and graceful stretch'd his hand.
POPE'S TEMPLE OF FAME.

*(Continued from p. 41.)*

Having added weight and dignity to the seats of attorney and solicitor general, his reputation as a speaker, a lawyer, and a politician, elevated him to the peerage, and the exalted post of chief justice of England. He ascended to the dignities of state by rapid strides: they were not bestowed by the caprice of party favour, or affection They were (as was said of Pliny) liberal dispensations of power upon an object that knew how to add new lustre to that power, by the rational exertion of his own... Here we can speak of this great man within our own recollection; and however party prejudices may adopt their different favourites, and each contend in detracting from the merit of the other, it is, we believe, generally understood, that *precedence* is allowed to the earl of Mansfield, as the first magistrate that ever so pre-eminently graced that important station. The wisdom of his decisions, and unbiassed tenor of his public conduct, will be held in veneration by the sages of the law, as long as the spirit of the constitution, and just notions or equity continue to have existence. No man has in an equal degree, possessed that wonderful sagacity in discovering chicanery and artifice, and separating fallacy from truth, and sophistry from argument, so as to hit *the exact equity of the case.* He never permitted justice to be *strangled* in the nets of form.

His memory was astonishing; "he never (when sitting upon "the bench) took any notes, or if he did, seldom or ever con-"sulted them." His references or expressions which fell from him in the course of debate, and his quotations from books, were so faithful, that they might have been said to have been repeated

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Rome and Genoa, would have remained as they were; and consequently there would neither have been a battle of Marengo, Ulm, nor Austerlitz; nor a battle of Jena, nor would Vienna, Berlin, Rome and Naples, &c. have been taken.

*Royalists* then, are only mentioned here as a party of opposition, as a power of themselves, and as the subject of this great and terrible tragedy. And it will be observed, that they are spoken of only as much as is necessary, to exhibit the follies, and ill conduct of the European Powers.

There articles form a fragment of the history of the age. And certainly it will be impossible to write the history of the 18th and 19th centuries without speaking of democracy *and royalism*; of France, and the Bourbons.

*verbatim*. The purposes to which he employed these amazing talents were still more extraordinary: if it was the weak part of his opponent's arguments that he referred to, he was sure to expose its fallacy, weakness, or absurdity in the most poignant satire, or hold it up in the most ridiculous point of view. If, on the contrary, it were a point on which his adversaries lay their chief stress, he stated the words correctly, collected their obvious meaning, considered the force of the several arguments that had or might have been raised upon them, with a precision that would induce an auditor almost to suppose that he had previously considered the whole, and that his speech was the result of much previous study and deliberation.

It may be said of Mansfield as of Virgil, that if he had any faults, they might be considered in the same manner with those of some eminent fixed star, which, if they exist at all, are above the reach of human observation. The luminous æther of his life was not obscured by any shade dark enough to be denominated a defect. On account of his descent, local prejudices and propensities were imputed to him, and his conduct on that account examined with a *microscopic* eye, but the optic through which it was viewed, possessed a party tinge equally odious and deceptive.

His political principles were ever *consistent;* and to preserve *consistency* in such stations and in such times as occupied the life of Mansfield, constitute an *ordeal* strongly impressive of virtue. It has been said that he wanted spirit! Is the uniform opposition of popular opinion, and apparently the contempt of it, any proof of the assertion? His speech and conduct in the affair of Wilke's outlawry, when popular prejudice ran in torrents, illustrate each other; the lustre of his eloquence was something more than human; and the firm integrity of the judge was the emanation of a Divinity. Here Demosthenes and Tully shrink from the comparison; here acknowledged superiority stands confessed; here the exulting Briton may exclaim—

**Cedite Romani, cedite Graii?**

He despised (to borrow an expression of his own) that mushroom popularity that is raised without merit, and lost without a crime...he disdained being the slave of popular impulse, or to acknowledge the shouts of a mob for the trumpet of fame.

*(To be continued.)*

## CRITICISM.

### *POSTHUMOUS MEMOIRS OF MARMONTEL,*

*(Continued from page 43.)*

Soon after this innocent engagement,* the father of the young lover insisted upon his breaking off his unprofitable studies, and

* See page 12 of the Observer.

took him to Clermont, where he intended to establish him in the counting-house of a considerable merchant. The dealer, however, and the rhetorician disagreed in two days; and the disconsolate youth, going to a church to compose his thoughts in prayer, was suddenly seized with the idea of devoting himself to the clerical profession. After obtaining his father's consent, he accordingly applied to be received into the academy of the Jesuits at Clermont; and having passed his examinations with eclat, was allowed to occupy his leisure hours as a private tutor to some of the more opulent scholars. By this means he was enabled to subsist himself in comfort, and, what delighted him still more, to attire his youthful person in the reverend habit of an abbé. During his residence at Clermont, he saw the venerable Massillon, then on the verge of life, at the house of Beauregard, and has spoken with feeling of the impression made upon him by the sight of this illustrious orator, although he has preserved no distinct anecdotes of his conversation or behaviour. At the end of the year, he returned exulting to his paternal cottage, his hands filled with presents for his sisters, and glorying in that ecclesiastical habit which struck misery and despair into the heart of his young betrothed. In the end of his second year's study, he was summoned home by the sudden death of his father; and was so much affected by the shock, that he was forced to go and recruit his health and spirits in the country residence and spiritual conversation of the good priest who had superintended his earliest education.

From this retreat he was drawn, at the distance of a few months, to act as a private tutor to the son of M. de Linars, and passed a short time in this family with equal satisfaction and improvement. He then received the *tonsure* from the hands of the Bishop of Limoges; and, during a short visit which he paid his mother, to undeceive her as to a ridiculous report she had heard of his inlisting in a regiment of cavalry, he was strongly tempted by an emissary of the Jesuits, to enter into their powerful society. He went to Thoulouse to deliberate upon this project; from which, however, he was dissuaded, by an eloquent and pathetic letter from his mother, enlarging upon all its dangers and disadvantages. At Thoulouse, when little more than eighteen, he acquired great reputation by supplying the place of the professor of philosophy during an occasional absence, and was enabled to subsist himself in comfort by instructing a limited number of opulent pupils. He was then elected a member of the college of St. Catharine in that city, and made his first *debut* in the literary world, by sending a poem to the academy of the Floral Games, which failed, however, to obtain the prize at which he had aspired. Enraged at this disappointment, the young author wrote to Voltaire, and sent him a copy of his poem; the philosopher not only returned him a flattering answer, but sent him a copy of his works corrected with his own hand. For three succeeding years he continued to write for the academy, and every

year obtained prizes of considerable value;...the detailed account which he gives of the solemnity attending their distribution, and of his own emotion when his success was proclaimed three times in one day, is extremely lively and amusing, though too long for insertion.

*(To be continued.)*

*For the Observer.*

## LITERARY INTELLIGENCE.

Mr. John Watts, of Philadelphia, has recently offered to public notice, his proposals for publishing certain specimens of English and American eloquence, forensic and parliamentary. From the judgment and discrimination of Dr. Chapman, we may confidently expect a selection of *sober words*, to which we may willingly lend a *listening ear*; and from the extensive information which he acquired during his residence in Europe, we have no doubt but that his "illustrative remarks" will both instruct and amuse.

In our own country, specimens of eloquence have already been exhibited, which would not have disgraced an Athenian portico. But these speeches are scattered among the pages of diurnal and perishing publications, and at some distant day it will be absolutely impossible to retrieve them, if they are not published in a more durable form. The speeches in our original convention, when the dawn of liberty beamed upon our hemisphere, and the youthful Hercules first arose in his might to strangle the insidious serpent, must vibrate the finest chords of national pride. Then did the thunder of a modern Demosthenes terrify a weak and ignorant administration, and make an imbecile monarch tremble on his throne. We hope Dr. Chapman will cull with a liberal hand from this exuberent garden. Since the period of our emancipation from the oppression of British taxation, the government of England has incessantly laboured to degrade by its pen what it could not conquer by its sword. In this laudable occupation are enlisted a parcel of idle and mercenary scribblers who take a stage coach tour through the United States, and then return to London with a budget rich in amusement for a credulous public, which cheerfully believes what gratifies envy and flatters pride. According to these gentlemen, who write books for booksellers and not for readers, and study bulk more than instruction, America is a barren soil, possessing no talents, no honesty, no animals but dogs and democrats, no ladies with sound teeth, &c. &c. &c. These are truly "tales told by an ideot." They are "full of sound and fury," and it is Doctor Chapman's task to shew, that as far as they respect American eloquence and American learning, their slanders, *signify nothing*."

The design of the work, as the Editor informs us, is to draw from the exchequer of modern eloquence the most distinguished

speeches, and to publish them *collectively*. These splendid productions, to many of which " Demosthenes would have listened with *delight*, and Cicero with *envy*," are permitted, by a strange insensibility to their value, to be scattered, with the refuse of literature, in the perishable shape of a pamphlet, or to be preserved imperfectly in the vapid synopses of the Chronicles of the day. It is to be regretted that, in consequence of this neglect, some of the finest displays of modern elocution are already irretrievably lost, and that the rest must inevitably be swept away by the current of time, if an effort be not fostered to give them a more permanent form.

The diligent researches of the Editor, though sometimes disappointed, have been, on the whole, rewarded with a success very disproportioned to the moderate expectations with which he went to the task. He has found, concealed in the cabinets of the curious, and in the hoards of " literary misers," a sufficient number of the " brightest gems," to authorise him to exchange the toils of gleaning for the perplexity of selection.

He proposes to make indisputable evidence of the genuineness of every speech the invariable criterion of his choice, and will admit no one into the work which has not distinct claims from importance of matter and brilliancy of diction.

Without hazarding a decision of his own, on the intricate question of the respective excellence of ancient and modern eloquence, he confidently trusts that *his compilation* will not be thought to weaken the opinion that, were a collection of the best specimens of the latter to be formed, it might fearlessly challenge a comparison with the celebrated exhibitions of Grecian and Roman oratory.

Of the pretensions of the work to public favour, the Editor conceives little need be said.

I. It is an attempt, and the only one, to perpetuate Modern Eloquence.

What direct memorial, says a late writer, would remote posterity have received, even of the existence of the talent, were not a few of Mr. Burke's orations incorporated with his works ? But, gorgeous as is certainly the rhetoric of Edmund Burke, will his speeches alone convey an adequate representation of the extent, variety, and richness of the eloquence of the age in which he lived ?

II. It will present at one view to the lawyer and statesman those learned and lucid discussions of politics and jurisprudence, which are eminently subsidiary to his investigations, and which, as now dispersed, are always difficult of access, and frequently not all to be procured.

III. It will afford a correct model for the study of Oratory.

The calm, temperate, argumentative manner of the moderns differs too widely from the bold, vehement, figurative style of the ancient orations, to render them, notwithstanding their various beauties, a standard altogether proper for emulation.

Whatever tends to improve or to widen the dominion of

speech cannot be an object of indifference in a commonwealth.

Eloquence has always been admired and studied by every free people. It engages particularly their attention, because it opens to them the widest avenue to distinction. Compared to it, the influence of the other attributes, which elevate to rank, or confer authority, is feeble and insignificant. In Greece and Rome, it rose, by cultivation, to the loftiest pitch of refinement, and the history of those states confirms, by innumerable instances, the truth, "that Eloquence is Power."

But no where has a condition of things prevailed, holding out stronger incitements to its acquirement, or more auspicious opportunities for its profitable exertion, than in the United States. There are, indeed, in the peculiar construction of our political institutions, advantages to the orator, which did not belong even to the ancient democracies. The complex fabric of our federative system has multiplied, beyond the example of any government, legislative assemblies and judiciary establishments: each of which is not only a school to discipline Eloquence, but also a field, that yields the abundant harvest of its honors and emoluments.

With us, an additional motive exists, to stimulate generous ambition to the culture of oratory. The nation has a character to receive. We can scarcely hope to create, and emblazon one with the glitter of military deeds. The natural felicities of our situation will forbid, perhaps for a considerable period, our becoming warlike. Reputation from the improvements of literature, or science, or the arts, is equally denied to us. Centuries must elapse before we can arrive at this enviable eminence. The adolescence of a people is not the season which produces such improvements. They are the offspring of a much riper age.

Hitherto we are chiefly known by a hardy spirit of commercial enterprise, and by the uncommon possession of the faculty of public speaking, which are the probable germinations of our future character. Into these directions the genius of the country is pressed by causes not readily to be controuled. Eloquence seems to flourish well among us. Let us therefore encourage its growth till it becomes the distinguishing feature of the American people. Let us, since we are excluded from many of the means which advance the glory of a nation, endeavour to exalt our fame by excelling in one of the noblest qualities of our nature.

Like a polished republic of antiquity, we will be content to be characterised by our commerce and our oratory. The winds which waft the redundant products of our industry to the remotest regions may also bear our renown as the most eloquent people of the earth. S.

☞ *Subscriptions to this work are received at the Bookstores of M. & J. Conrad & Co. and Samuel Jefferis & Co. Market-street, Baltimore.*

*From a London Publication.*

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SIR SIDNEY SMITH, AND UNEXAMPLED GENEROSITY IN HIS UNKNOWN FRIEND.

*Rochester Election*.....The eyes of the nation, and shortly of all the world, will be upon this election. It has produced an incident, of such character, that we are almost at a loss for words to describe it. If the plains of Maida ; if the plains of Syria and Egypt (where Sir Sidney Smith has gained renown at the cannon's mouth) have raised the honour of the British name, the act of a British gentleman, which we are about to record, does in its kind and genius reflect a correspondent lustre upon the magnanimous liberality of which the British character is capable, when the true chord is touched in a true British bosom.

A meeting of the London voters for Rochester took place on Friday night, when the friend of Sir Sidney Smith, who, from friendship the most pure and perfect, is engaged in accomplishing his re-election, disclosed the extraordinary circumstance, which will astonish and delight the whole country.

This friend of Sir Sidney Smith went to Rochester on Wednesday last. In his absence, some difficulties were understood to exist among other friends of Sir Sidney, respecting the expences of his re-election.

A letter from a Mr. Turner, an officer in the navy, in the Mediterranean, to his father Mr. Charles Turner, of the city of Rochester, after a description of the battle of Maida, and a detail of Sir Sidney Smith's various and well combined operations, concludes in these words..." *This government has given him* (Sir Sidney) *power over all its civil and military authorities—nay, even the prerogative of life and death.*"

It is not at such a moment that any honest respectable English gentleman, still less a brother officer, of kindred qualities and courage, *could* be found to lend himself towards any abasement of that brave man, of whom his country is so justly proud, and who in this crisis constitutes so much of Europe's hope.

Sir Thomas Thompson retired from the contest.

The pressure of the moment, and the inevitable scantiness of our limits, will not allow us to give the speech of Sir Sidney's friend to our readers; but that part of it, which states the following never to be forgotten public spirit, and unexampled generosity, we would even stop the press to communicate to our country, and to the whole world.

Sir Sidney's friend, on coming to town on Thursday last, wrote to a gentleman whom he had often heard talk in rapture of Sir Sidney's exploits, on the subject of the pecuniary straights, and received in reply the following answer :

*Nine o'clock, Thursday evening, Oct.* 23, 1806.

*My dear sir,*

I have just this moment received your letter respecting Sir Sidney Smith's election.

Your zeal in favour of your absent friend does you honour; and I received your application to me upon this subject, as the greatest compliment you could pay me

If the only difficulty to Sir Sidney's re-election be want of money, that difficulty is removed.

I shall send to you in the morning, it being impossible to get the cash to night, by Henry, bank notes for 5000l. before ten o'clock, which be sure to be in the way to receive; and if 5000l. more are necessary, the same shall be forth coming.

I never opened my lips to that great and glorious character, but think him an honour to my country."

Here, gentlemen, said the speaker, I must make an observation. One of our greatest poets, distinguishing true piety from ostentation, thus expresses himself:

> " Who builds a church to God, and not to fame,
> " Never inscribes the marble with his name."

(If this unparallelled act, wanted any thing to make it unique, the taste, the good sense, and modest dignity of the concluding paragraph most abundantly supplies that consummate perfection. It is in these words :)

There is one condition which I must insist upon, most peremtorily, under the strictest tie of good faith, namely, that you do, on no account, reveal my name, which I omit signing to this letter, &c.

Before ten o'clock on Friday morning sir Sidney's friend received the following :—

DEAR SIR, *Friday Morning.*

I enclose you Five Thousand Pounds, in bank-notes. Let me know, by a single line, that they have safely reached your hands. Ever yours, most faithfully, &c. &c.

Upon the reading of this letter, and the five notes of 1000l. each being laid upon the table, the room was shaken to its base. The universal sentiment of all who were present was, that it would be sacrilege to trench upon a guinea of the money, beyond the most strict exigence. The health of Sir Sdney's UNKNOWN FRIEND was toasted with enthusiasm. A more rapturous scene never was exhibited in a social circle.

## TO READERS AND CORRESPONDENTS.

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We have many favours to acknowledge, as well from Correspondents, as from those friends who have warmly interested themselves in the success of the Observer. To these we can only at this moment, urge the extreme hurry which new arrangements have occasioned as an apology for *apparent* neglect, and assure them that on the ensuing Saturday they will not find us backward in offering our tribute, both of gratitude and respect.

## SELECTED POETRY.

*We extract the following charming lines, from Graham's Spring, Summer and Autumn Walks.*

——" What tho' the op'ning spring be chill,
What tho' the lark, check'd in his airy path,
Eke out his song, perch'd on the fallow clod,
That still o'ertops the blade! What tho' no branch
Have spread its foliage, save the willow wand,
That dips its pale leaves in the swollen stream!
What tho' the clouds oft low'r! their threats but end
In sunny showers, that scarcely fill the folds
Of moss-couch'd violet, or interrupt
The merle's dulcet pipe,—melodious bird!
He, hid behind the milk-white sloe-thorn spray,
(Whose early flowers anticipate the leaf,)
Welcomes the time of buds, the infant year."..... SPRING WALK.

" How peaceful every sound!—the ring-dove's plaint,
Moan'd from the forest's gloomiest retreat,
While every other woodland lay is mute,
Save when the wren flits from her down-covered nest,
And from the root-sprigs trills her ditty clear—
The grashopper's oft pausing chirp—the buzz,
Angrily shrill, of moss-entangled bee,
That soon as loos'd booms with full twang away;—
The sudden rushing of the minnow shoal
Scar'd from the shallows by my passing tread."..... SUMMER WALK.

" But list that moan! 'tis the poor blind man's dog,
His guide for many a day, now come to mourn
The master and the friend—conjunction rare!
A man indeed he was of gentle soul,
Tho' bred to brave the deep: the lightning's flash
Had dimm'd, not clos'd, his mild, but sightless eyes.
He was a welcome guest thro' all his range;
(It was not wide)—no dog would bay at him;
Children would run to meet him on his way,
And lead him to a sunny seat, and climb
His knee, and wonder at his oft-told tales.
Then would he teach the elfins how to plait
The rushy cap and crown, or sedgy ship:
And I have seen him lay his tremulous hand
Upon their heads, while silent mov'd his lips.
Peace to thy spirit, that now looks on me,
Perhaps with greater pity than I felt
To see thee wand'ring darkling on thy way..... AUTUMN WALK.

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